

A
DIALOGUE
BETWEEN
K. W. and Benting,

Occasioned by his Going into *Flanders* after the DEATH of the
QUEEN.

W. In Bed, the Candle burning dim.

THese Gripes of Conscience are a
damn'd Disfranchisement; nor is there any
Cure for e'm except a *Medicine*,
that will never down with me, I
thought I had quell'd, maul'd, kill'd, and ram-
med the Worm for ever moving more; and yet
if Trouble come, or Danger threaten, I cannot
be alone, but it comes crawling on, and stings,
and bites, the Vulture feeding on *Prometheus's*
Heart cannot be a greater Torment: The impar-
tial Devil will not bate an Ace of Truth, but
musters up all my Villanies before me, enough
to have damn'd ten thousand to the *lowest Hell*,
and then---

The Q's Ghost glides by, and disappears.

Ha! What art thou? Sure it was She; and is
there then something of us that remains even
after Death? Is there a reckoning in the Case?
Sure mine will be no very comfortable part in
the other World: if it be answerable to my De-
sires in this,

The Ghost returns, approaches him, and speaks,

*Q's Ghost, Repents, for me it's too late, not
yet for you.*

(*Exit Ghost.*)

*W. Ha! This preaching Ghost hath put me
in a fit of Trembling; but since Moses and the
Prophets could never do any good of me, it shall
never be said, that She coming Canting from the
Dead shall move me, whom I never regarded in
her Life. Repent! Wise work indeed. Where
shall I begin? Or when shall I make an end?
My whole Life hath been such a Scene of Mon-
strous Villanies, that they are scarce to be repeat-
ed, never to be repented. Who would begin a
work which will never be done? I have traded
in barbarous Murders, heinous Lyes, damn'd Conspi-
racies, I have oppressed my Country, Banished
my Father, Seiz'd his Kingdoms, put the whole
World in Blood and Flames, and as far as Man can,
have even dethroned God himself, for I have made
Religion a meer Cheat and Stalking-horse to my
Designs,*

Designs, and undone all, who would not renounce any *Obligation* from the *Laws of God*, or from the Tie of *Sacred Oaths*: and could I but conquer *Conscience*, and the *K. of France*, nothing could stand before me. And shall I repent? No, no, The evils I have done must be maintained by greater, if greater can be; if *Hell* can find out a Sin, which the World never yet knew, I'll readily act it, provided it may serve my *Ambition*, or further my *Design*.

But oh! In spite of all, I still feel something within; This *gnawing Conscience*, the Devil would not be troubled with: What? Who waits there?

Enter Page.

P. Sir, Your Majesty's Pleasure?

W. Go tell my Lord Portland, it's time to rise, I want him, and send in one to dress me.

Enter Second Page.

W. Come, bring my Cloaths, Make ready, Be quick, I am uneasy and in haste, Give me my *private Mourner* next my Body; there is no trussing any Man a Moment; every Man is, or has reason to be, my Enemy. Page, Dost thou sleep well on Nights? Dost thou never dream of the Devils nor see Ghosts?

P. Sir, I have heard of such things; but nothing breaks my Rest, unless when I am call'd, and they will let me sleep no longer; and then within my self, I wish them hang'd for't.

W. Thou art happier than thou art aware of. Villain, What dost? Thou drawest the Stockin on my left Foot first, Curse on the Fool, and Omen both.

P. Sir, I'll pull it off, and put it first on the other, if you please?

W. Coxcomb, Thou hast done what thou canst undo; Dispatch, let me be out of thy Hands.

Enter Lord Portland.

W. My Dearest Brating, welcome I never more long'd for thy Company. I have had a restless Night; Come, let us retire, this Room is haunted, the Devil here keeps Hois-day.

B. Your Majesty seems disorder'd, I am not a little troubled to see it thus.

W. I sent for you to help to mend the matter, not to encrease my Vexation,

B. I will do the utmost lies in me, when I know what the matter is.

W. I doubt it not, I know I have thy Heart; and I never more needed thy Head than now. Have you considered what *desperate circumstances* I am in by the *Death* of the *Queen*; and my *Necessity* of going for *Flanders*.

B. Yes if you were among Men of *Sense* or *Thought*; but amongst the *Black-headed English*, who never in *Convulsions* of State contrive any thing, but their own ruin, you may be safe enough.

W. I know the Generality of them are like a Hog, who if he sets himself to go on in a way, you may sooner knock out his Brain, than turn him; but then they are like a Hog still, who if he chance to turn of himself, is as obstinate in the quite contrary way; and I have reason at this time to fear it.

B. We shall do well enough for that matter. It is but employing your *Agents* to fill their heads with dismal Appearances of *Papery* and *Slavery* approaching; and then spreading *Strange Stories* and *Swinging Lyes*; and you may make them run mad which way you will.

W. I confess that has done Feats: But I doubt many begin to see throw the Artifice, and many are not so willing to be deceiv'd as formerly they were. Besides were it not for the variety of *Factions*, and the Natural Ungovernableness of the People, notwithstanding the Scandal, there wants not Men of *Sense* among them, who are capable of managing Affairs as well as others.

B. True, but it is Fatal in *England* for any Man to be wiser than his Fellows. If any one have a longer Head than ordinary, they are seldom quiet till they have it off. However these need not trouble you. For many of them are so deeply dyt in Guilt, that they think they cannot be safe under any other Government; and so are unquestionably yours by an unchangeable Interest, And as for others, you have finely trick'd the *Common*



more Weakish-men to their own Destruction, by putting them in Employments; These notwithstanding their sweetious Pretences are a *Cruel, Bloody, Barbarous* sort of Men, who will stick at nothing in their way, and it is but giving them their full Scope for a time; and they will destroy every thing in the Nation, that is *Brave* or *Honest*; the Odium of which you may presently return upon them, and thence take occasion to root out them also; and so your work will be done every way.

W. Thou shalt be *Canoniz'd* in *Hell*, *Lucifer* himself could not give better Counsel; but yet I fear all will not do, and that my Tools will not work as formerly, The Death of the Queen has shockt my Throne: She was Popular, and Belov'd by many; and in my Absence a sure Guardian of the Crown; now I know not whom to Trust, I am left alone with a lamentable crackt Title, there being no less than Four before me, all *Natural Born English*, and I a *Foreigner*, agreeable neither in Humour nor Manners to the People, and engag'd in an Interest quite contrary to theirs.

B. It must be confess'd, that the Death of the Queen was no small Loss; She was a Miracle in Nature, if it were but for this, how so bad a Daughter should make so good a Wife. But for all that, her Death is our Advantage, for thereby you are rid of a *Rival* in your Power; and a dangerous one too, if ever it should have come in her head to be but half as unkind to her *Husband*, as she had been *undutiful* to her Father; which might justly have been expected, considering the Provocations you gave her. Besides her Life kept up the Inclinations of the People to the *Old Constitutions*, and after a sort they seem to adhere to them. Now you have overturn'd all, and have an opportunity to pull them up wholly by the roots, and in a little time to do what you list.

W. But all this while you say nothing to the *Four*, the last of which, I told you had a better Title than my self. Do you think these will be no Rubs in my way?

B. You are got over those Rubs already, and may easily keep so.

W. Thou art a brave Fellow, every thing is easy to thee, but pray convince me how.

B. As for *K. James* and the Prince of *Wal*; they are in Effect but one; for the Son cannot hurt you, while the Father lives; however they are both far enough off, and how they should come hither with any considerable Force, whilst you are Master of the Seas, is strange; and if they come without sufficient Force, it will be just to run into your Net.

W. I begin to doubt of that, for the *English* have been harass'd almost to utter Ruine, and many begin to look upon their Case as desperate. And in the eye of Human Reason nothing can restore *Peace, Trade*, and *Safety* to the Nation but the *Restoration* of *K. James*, which in all reason will make him too welcome to a *wearied People*. Nay his Restoration would put an end to all the Broils and bloody Wars in *Europe*, with which all Nations are so quite tir'd out, that I wonder they do not strive to promote it.

B. All this is true; and between our selves it must be confess'd, that *K. James* is a *brave* and *Generous Prince*; that no Man ever better understood the *Trade* of his *Kingdom*, or more studied to promote it, which made the *Dutch* both hate and dread him, and use all Arts to ruine him; and it is not to be doubted, but that the worst of his Enemies would find him more Merciful, than they expect or deserve? But we must say other things of him: Lying has done our *Business* hitherto, and must still, and let all other Nations do what they will, if we can keep his *own Subjects* against him, you may be safe enough.

W. But how can that be done? It will be impossible to keep them blind-folded always.

B. Sir! Trouble not your self, They hate and dread the Name of *Papist* worse than that of *Devil*; that shall be rung continually in their Ears, and then I have set *Scriblers* to work to blacken him all that may be; some of which represent him as a *Fool*, some as a *Knave*, some as *cruel* and *bloody*, some as a *Dotard*; in short, their Pens neglect nothing, that may render him *Odious* to his People, or to appear *un capable* of *Reigning*. And then others I have in Person,

who go into all Companies, and *Redicule* him, and tell *strange things* of him, and after so long Absence, and so often telling, these things are sunk into the Peoples heads; and they are prepared for any thing, so that if it should be told them, that he had *Horns* and *Hoofs*, I am confident they would believe it, and therefore trouble not your self about him.

W. Well! But have you considered, that I leave behind me the *Princess Ann* and her *Son* in my *Capital City*; and as I may say, in the heart of my *Kingdom*; and tho' others Precedethem; yet both their Titles are antecedent to mine.

B. Great things to fear, a *Woman* and a *Child*!

W. pr'thee consider, that she hath a *Husband*, who, tho' he be not very *Mutinous* or *Ambitious*, yet is of a *Martial Temper* and well beloved by all the *English* Souldiers; and if some wiser Head should get the management of him, he might be tempted to give me more Trouble than I know how to provide against: For tho' he could now get a *Crown* for himself, yet he might *Recall* and *Restore* his *Injur'd Father-in-Law*, and thereby not only recover his *Reputation*, but gain an *Eternal Name* and *Honour* throwout the World. What think'st thou? Shall I procure some good Fellow to drop something in his *Liquor*, and send him on an *Errand* to the other World.

B. No, by no means. She might then either Marry another, who would not take things so patiently, or be stir'd up by others to be more troublesome Her self. It were much more advised to send *Her*, and Her *Brat* packing, if it could be done neatly. But as to that, Opportunity must be waited, and the Matter well concerted.

W. What is to be done with them in the mean time?

B. You have lately given them the *Honour* of *Guards*; I suppose you did it to no other end but in effect to make them *Prisoners*. You must be sure those Guards are true to you, and watchful over them; and then it will concern you to keep some of their Servants in Pension, who may betray to you all their Motions and Councils. And lastly; You must secure a certain Number

of resolute Fellows, if possibly, in the Guards to whom you must make large Allowances (for, Blood is not bought so cheap in *England* as in other Countries) and these must never be without Orders without any *Delay*, *Regard*, or *Mercy* to *Dispatch* them, whenever they are inform'd they attempt any thing against your Government.

W. I am satisfied, that thus far thou hast taken thy measures not much amiss. But still the People themselves run in my head; for tho' I have *deluded* them, yet I have *abused* them at that rate that I believe the whole World cannot find one President to parallel it. There it therefore some Cause to fear them, unless they have utterly lost their Senses; and therefore, my faithful *Benning*! Deal truly with me, and let me know how they stand affected.

B. If I should tell you Truth, I shall enrage you? if not, I shall deceive you; Therefore, Great Sir! excuse me, and commit that unwelcome Task to some other, and not to me, who have always studied to please you.

W. Yes to be deceived, and consequently ruined; Come, Dally not with me; I must know what they say, and will know even the worst of it.

B. That is a hard matter to tell, for some say so very bad, that a Man scarce knows how to repeat it after them.

W. Well! He it as bad as it will, I must know, that I may provide and arme against it. And therefore I conjure you, as you love and tender my Safety, that you deal plainly with me, and let me know all you have heard? I may be *angry* at them; but shall think my self *oblig'd* to you for a *True* and *Faithful Discovery*.

B. Tho' I had much rather this had been done by another; yet since it is your Majesty's Pleasure, I obey; Then know, that as to your *Religion*, they say you are a *Papist*; that when you so Barbarously caused the *Devotions* to be torn in pieces, you transacted the matter with *Romish Priests*; that when you entered into his *Confederacy*, you took the Sacrament there upon at the

the Great Church in Brussels; That you faithfully promised the Pope to promote the *Romish Religion* in England, and that accordingly you now indulge the *Papists* greater Liberty than ever they had under *K. James*, and that where he made one *Papist*, you have made Forty; and many more things to this purpose; and from hence they infer, that you have forfeited the Crown of England even by your own *Act of Settlement*. Yet others do not believe this, but take you for a perfect *Levantine*; and say that Religion hangs on you like water on a Goose, which you make use of for your Turn, and shake off at your Pleasure.

W. These last are most in the Right; but they are all a parcel of Fools. What is Religion to me, except for a Pretence to blind the People. Did ever any considerable Action of my Life favour of Religion? It had been impossible for me to have driven my Father out of his Kingdom, if he had not had too much Religion. I can be a *Church of England-man* here, a *Presbyterian* in Scotland, a *Papist* in Flanders, and of any other Religion that is in Vogue in any other place, so that it promotes my Designs. For after all, I will serve God no further, than God serves me. But go on.

B. They say you are a very *Brute*; and downright charge you with *Sademy*, and name your very *Catamites*. Now this Sin is accounted in England not only *Unnatural* but *Monstrous*, and is nowhere in a worse Name; the Men *abhor* it; and the Women will not endure the name of one guilty of it, and therefore you must be wary, for if the Women here are once your *Enemy*, the Men will not long be your *Friends*.

W. Slaves and Villains! Whar am I a King for, if I can have no peculiar Pleasure to my Self? The Sots ought to be thankful, that I rake this course, that there may be no more of the Breed of me. Have I not been plague enough to them, unless they may be blessed with a Succession of such?

B. Then they say that you have given many *Honest Men's* Estates, and almost all the *Crown-Lands* to *Forreigners*, whereby you have ruin'd many *Families*, and impoverish'd the *Crown*, and set up *Forreigners* to trample on the *Natives*.

W. Could the Fools imagine, that I came hither to enrich them? Where should I have it? If I came hither for my own Ends, what can they expect, but that I should advance my Friends and Relations, and such as will be true to me? What would they have? They neither wanted *Land*, nor *Monies*, nor any sort of *Riches* before; their only Complaint was for Religion; and they have Religion enough, let them rake them, and be content, and be damn'd their own way.

B. They Clamour loud against your carrying the Money out of the Nation, and encouraging the Dutch in their open Clipping, Counterfeiting and Debasing it. This last *Act against Clipping and Coyning*, is said to be only a Contrivance to hang Englishmen, and to secure the Profit of all the Gold Money, that is left, to the Dutch; and now they say you have Erected a Bank and Mint at Antwerp, where you Coin Money of Iron, and other base Alloys, and send it hither, and Exchange it for good Money out of the Exchequer, which receives none here but, and now pays none good, whereby in a short time there will not be one Penny of Sterling Money left in the Kingdom, which will breed Confusion, and set them all together by the Ears.

W. And let them go together by the ears, and tear out each other Throats, with all my Heart; my Necessaries must, and shall be Supplied. If I do not make vast Contributions, the Confederacy cannot be Supported; and if that fail, I shall be like the *Jack-law* in the Fable, strutting in the Peacocks Feathers; they will begin then to examine the Case, and every one will be pulling his Feather, and I shall be a *Daw* again. No, no, I'll spend their Coin as far as it will go, and then make them sell their Plate for Iron Money; and when that is spent, I'll sell their Horses, Cows, Sheep, Corn, and themselves too, rather than I'll want.

B. They complain that whilst you are profuse to others, you pay neither the *Soldiers* or *Souldiers* of the English; and yet use them basely, and give many of them, and put them on the most desperate Attempts, and then

B. leave

let yethem in the Lurch, on Purpose, that they may be cut off; by which means they say you have Murdered above a Hundred thousand English.

W. And I wish they had been ten times as many more; I had been rid of so many *Rogues* and *Rebels*; and might have Stockt their Country with others, whom I could have call'd in, who would have been truer to me, than these can be expected.

B. Very true, but these heavy Clod-pared Rascals, seem to be sensible of this, however they came by it. For they do not yet cease to talk of the Attempt to *Naturalize Foreigners* by *Act of Parliament*: which they look upon as an *Invitation* of all the *Rogues*, *Malecontents*, and *Beggars* of other Countries to come over and *Dispossess* them: And they do not stick to call even their Dearly beloved House of Commons *Trojan* to their Country, for that under Pretence of Favour to some particular Persons, they passed Bills whereby several Hundreds of *Strangers* were *Glandesinely Naturalized*; which they say is pursuing the same design by *Retale*, which they fail'd of in *Gros*.

W. And that Design I will carry by one means or other; what care I what becomes of them, so I can secure my self, and my own Grandeur?

B. But you must do it warily, for they complain that you are bringing *Foreigners* over daily; and that whilst you *disarm* the *Natives*, you put *Armes* into the hands of *Dutch*, *VPal-leans*, and *Refugees*, and privately Exercise them; to what End, they say, they cannot guess, unless it be when opportunity serves to cut the *English Throats*.

W. If I had enough of them, they should quickly find what I would do with them.

B. They say, you value more, and have a greater kindness for *Monfieur Renew*, and his *Hugonots*, than for the *Lord Mayor*, *Aldermen*, *Common-Council*, and all the *City of London*.

W. There is reason for it; the one are *True*, so me, the others *False*, at least *wavering* and *inconstant*: It is a *Rebellious*, *Headstrong* City;

I care not if it once more lay in *Affes*, had I but first secur'd the *Wealth* of it; and I think I have pretty well pillag'd it, or shall do, before I have done.

B. You must consider of some way or other to *save* that *City*, or have it at your *beck*; which will scarce be, unless it were *peopled* with other *Castil*, or the greatest Part of it; but to proceed; They say, that you have convey'd away all the *Crown Jewels*, *Plate*, and *Par-viture*; and some such as the World cannot repair the Loss of.

W. The Fools gave them me, and who is there, whom I would leave them to here? And therefore I will enrich my self, and my own Country with them, rather than any other. Besides I must live Great and Splendidly amongst the *Confederates*; nor do I know but after all, in spite of my Endeavours, King *James* may come back again, which if he do, In faith, I'll make my *Mother-in Law* a giddy Housewife; for she shall come to *Lave Walls*.

B. I must, Sir, further tell you, That it is a general Complaint, that you have destroyed the *Trade* of the *Nation*, at *Home* and *Abroad*. That the *Merchants* cannot have *Convoy*, unless when it is in favour of the *Dutch*, whose *Trade* you by all means *advance*, while you *sist* theirs; That above *three Thousand* Trading Vessels (and some vastly Rich) have fall'n into the Hands of the *French*; and that you have with-held the *Ships* appointed to *cruise*, as if you *join'd* with them in the Design. That the *East-India Trade* is in a manner lost; and given to your Beloved *Dutch*; That the *Turkey Trade* is in very ill circumstances; That our *Islands* and *Plantations* are lamentably harassed, and impoverished: and then for the *Trade* at home; They say you encourage the *Refugees*, *Dutch*, and all sorts of *Strangers* against the *English*; and that not only by employing them, buying of them, and encouraging others to do so, but also by raising *vast Contributions* for them, whereby they are enabled to *work at Under-Rates*, and *undersell* the *English*, and thereby *Beggar* and *Starve* them; and this they say you do to force the *English* to go off

for

for Souldiers, and to bring on *Ferragurs* in their room for *Inhabitants*, till in the end you shall be able to give the Land away from them to meet *Strangers*, or their very *Enemies*.

W. I have reason to encourage those Men, as being the Persons, who in all likelihood must stand and fall with me; and they are the Men perhaps I must trust to at last, if ever it should come to a desperate Push.

B. Great Sir, I humbly beg your pardon; I am unwilling to tire you with these unpleasant Relations; but to say the Truth, they have a thousand Complaints, and they encrease daily. But in short, they say you are an *utter Enemy* of the *English*, and do all you can to destroy them from being a *Nation*.

W. Hell and Damnation seize them; would they had all but *one Head*, that I might dispatch them all at once. Who can have kindness for such *Rogues* and *Villains* as drove away their *natural King*, and set aside the *Princes of the Blood*, born amongst them, to set me up a *Stranger*, who from my Cradle was bred up an *Enemy* to them? How shall I trust such *Fools* and *Madmen*? Or can I think my self safe, till they are quell'd? When I have shar'd the *Lands* of their *Nobles* and *Gentry* amongst my *Creatures* and *Dependants*, and made the rest *Gibemites* and *Slaves*, when I have render'd them unable to hurt me, when I may trust them, and not before. But enough of this Theme, I believe thou hast dealt pretty truly with me. Come, let us now consider how to be even with them, and manage them.

B. Sir, After such a strain'd Thought, and such uneasy Discourse, Would not a little Diversion do well to refresh you? I just now saw *Madam Villiers* walking in the Garden.

W. Call her up; it is a witty Slut, when she gives her Mind to it; and so unstring the Bow sometimes is not amiss.

(Exit Biting.)

B. Madam! The King wants your Company.

M.P. My Lord; You are mistaken sure, you mean *Monsieur Capel*; or is your own Ase

grown too old and out of Fashion? Go, tell that *shameless Enggering*, *Sedamistal Rascol* your King, that I scorn to come near such a *Beast*, nor ought any *Woman* to come at him, unless it were to scratch out his Eyes, or serve him, as the *Swades* serves *Jesuits*, when they catch them in their Country. Go, bid him send for his *Catamites*, with a pox to him.

(Enter Biting.)

B. I suppose your Majesty heard the *Fixin*, I need not relate her Answer.

W. Yes, yes, Some water has run by her Mill; the Jade is angry, that she cannot engross the whole Trade to her self, let her fier in her Greefe, till she is weary; and come to again; but let you and I resume our former Consideration, How I shall deal with these damn'd *English*.

B. The *Blackheads* begin to be angry; but you have ways enough to hamper them; and I make no doubt but ere long, you will shorowly tame them, and bring them to your Bow.

W. Thou never wantest either Courage or Contrivance; But prithee, let me hear by what ways this may be brought about.

B. They are pretty well enur'd to the Yoke already; they have born that within these Seven Years, that would have broke any other Peoples backs in *Europe*; Hold them to it some three or four Years longer, and they'll look for it of course.

W. But how to do it is the Great thing; for tho' they are a People wicked and foolish, yet they are *rich* and *shubbin*; and if they run a head, there will be something to do with them.

B. Sir, Do not entertain the least Fear of Thought that way. For all things conspire, as it were, to accomplish your Designs. And first, I think the Wisdom of the *House of Commons* hath gone a great way in the Matter, but more particularly in the late *Bill* for *Bishops*, *Marriages*, and *Baronies*; whereby such an Accomplish is order'd to be return'd into the *Exchequer*, that the People are not only *numbred*, but their respective *Quality* and *Condition* known;

so that from thence, with a little further Assistance from your Agents in all Countries, you may, like another *William the Conquerour*, compile another *Doom-day Book*; and thence take an Estimate of the *Strength* and *Riches* of the Nation, know whom to *support*, and whom to *crack*, and where at any time to have a *Booby*. Nor can they ever hereafter cheat you considerably in any *Tax* or *Poll*, but from this account you may trace them out.

W. I do believe that more and better use may be made of that *Art*, than ever they intend; and I will not fail to improve it to the utmost.

B. Your Majesty has observ'd, that the *English Coasts* for the most part lie open; and that there are many rich *Villages* by the *Shoar* which are utterly *Indefensible*. These the King of *France*, without troubling his *Royal Navy*, might burn at pleasure by his *Privateers*; and when they had made us these costly *Bon fires* and *Illuminations*, they might whip away, and be gone without the least hurt or damage either by *Land* or *Sea*, unless by mere Accident.

W. 'Tis very true; and I wonder he hath not done it; but I suppose it is to shew himself a *Generous Enemy*, and to ingratiate himself into a *Good opinion* with the *English*.

B. But it is not your Interest to suffer this; but by *Bombing* and *Burning* his *Towns*, and *Havelling* his *Coasts*, you must provoke him to *Retaliate*.

W. But I fear, that when the *English* see their *Houses on Fire*, and their *Goods burnt*, they will be Enrag'd, that they are not better *Protected*, after such vast Sums of Money given.

B. No, It will only enrage them against the *French King*, and they will every where cry out against his *Cruelties* and *Barbarities*, tho' you forget him to it; and being he hath forborn so long, the People may be persuaded, that it was not from his own *Inclination*, but by the *Instigation* of *K. James*; and thus you may set them violently against the *K. of France*, and *K. James*, and revenge your self on the *English* all at once.

W. What *Excellent use* may be made of *Mischief* and *Lying*? But proceed.

B. When the *Coasts* are thus burnt, you must take care to remove the *Inhabitants*, either under Pretence of putting them into the *Hospitals*, or of allowing them *Pensions*, or of finding them *Employment*; or something else to that purpose; but above all shew your self extraordinary *Compassionate* of their Condition, and wondrous *Zealous* to relieve them.

W. For take thee, *Bentig!* thou wast never so much out in all thy life, as now: Besides that, mercy is not in my Nature, this would undo me.

B. Your Majesty is mistaken, not I. I never intend'd you should do thus, but only pretend it; And when you have thus blinded the People's Eyes, then scatter them all over the *City of London*, and their *Great Towns* there to *Starve* or *Beg* their *Bread*, and with *Frightful Stories* to enrage all others against the *French*: but in the mean time you must be sure to take care, and see that you in no wise neglect to *Repopulate* the forsaken *Coasts* with trusty *Foreigners*, who shall depend upon you, and be your faithful Servants upon all occasions, and if you could possibly thus secure the *Coasts* the whole *Island* must be at your Devotion; for after all to deal plainly with you, you must either *Conquer* this *People*, or they will *Conquer* you; and kick you off, or deal worse by you.

W. Now you say something to the purpose, if I could make a *Conquest*, my work were done; if not, I am sensible, that I am only *Tenant at will*, or by *Curtesy* and may be turned out at Pleasure; and I will hazard all, rather than live in such Circumstances, but as to what you were speaking, the coasts indeed generally lie open and defenseless, but yet there are several strong *Ports*, and *Citadels*, which *Monsieur* cannot hurt; and in these seems to lie the great strength of the Nation.

W. Of those *Ports*, there are other Matters in course must fall under Consideration before them; are you fully resolv'd how to leave Matters in your Absence?

W. Ye:

W. Yes, I think the best way will be, as we concerted the Matter among our selves. It's true, that in spite of the *Parliament*, I made old *Schomberg's* Son *General* of all the *English Forces*; and I would willing have left him and you my *Deputies*, or *Vicars* in my Absence; but things are not ripe for that yet, the Nation will not bear it; and there are some *sturdy Noblemen*, as well as some *pliant Tools*, whom I must make use of, till I can handsomely get rid of them.

B. Then you seem to be resolved on the *strum*?

W. I am so. I am unwilling to say, that they have lost their Reputation; however, the *worse Men*, the better for me; but they have no Interest in the *People*, so that it is not likely they should do me any hurt: And then being so many, and of such different Persuasions, they will never agree upon any thing of Moment without Recourse to me; so that wherever I am, I shall be their *Umpire* and *Oracle*; but if they should go fall out, as to accuse each other; I might in time have an happy opportunity to cut them all off; and then be sure the rest shall follow as fast as I can. Besides, I have left *Leeds* and *Sunderland*, who are over head and ears in my Interest, to be their *Council* and *Directors*; and in case any of them tread awry, to be my *Spies* and *Informers*.

B. And I think you have so limited their Power by your Commission, that they are rather *Pageants* than *Princes*. But to leave these *Adors* to their Parts; What are your thoughts of the *Campaign*?

W. I wish the Devil had it with all the *Confederates*, and the King of *France* into the Bargain, I must bluster and make a Noise, and in words despise the *French Lions*; and threaten to break through them at pleasure; and some *Shows* and *Offers* I must make; and perhaps cause ten thousand *English* more, to be knockt o'th head; and then send strange News hither, and cause every thing to be magnified, and right or wrong reported on my side, as if I had done *Great Feats*. But to deal plainly and truly with thee, my *Bosom Friend*: I have so little

hopes of doing any good there, that I care not how soon it is at an end; and my Chief thoughts are employed, what I shall do at my *Return*, if I can secure it.

B. Your Majesty is now come to the main Point; for (pardon this Freedom, Great Sir) with humble submission, 'tis my poor Opinion, that if you do not your Business *speedily*, at your Return you will certainly *miscarry*.

W. I like not such O'ners. But come, tell me what you think can be then done, that by Consultation with my Friends in *Holland*, I may improve it to the utmost. I know nothing will be wanting from them to *assist* the *English*, whom they irreconcilably hate.

B. My thoughts, Sir! are only to serve you, and therefore I hope I am more pardonable, if I warn you of Danger, and advise you to secure your self.

W. I am sufficiently satisfied both of your Fidelity and Ability to serve me; and therefore let me have no more of these idle *Apologies*; but come to the Business.

B. Sir, there is an unlucky *Swaggering Amblesseer*, who hath given such a *spiteful*, *impudent*, lying Character of *K. James*; that I'm self was ashamed to read it, and yet in my Conscience he hath no great love for you; but after all, he has hit upon the thing, that will do the *dear*.

W. Say you so? But pray what may that be?

B. Sir! He says plainly, and I think truly, that we are no ways likely to *distress France*, whilst from time to time we talk only of trying *our Summer* more: For as he well observes, that Rich Kingdom cannot fail at a pinch to afford their King a Cordial Sup, or furnish him wherewith to hold out one Summer more. But, says he, if a *General Excise* was settled, that would be such a *large and lasting Fund*, as would fright him into a Compliance, when he saw no end of the War.

W. Nor any end should he have, till I were Master both of *Him*, and the *Confederates* too, could I get that, but how shall I come by it?

B. Why thus Sir, You see your *Parliament* grow *troublesome* and *saucy*; and I know not

How you can trust another, and therefore make this serve for a 1, and be troubled with no more for them.

W. Gods Sacrament ! I would give the Kingdom of Scotland to be rid of the Parliament of England, if I knew how ; teach me but this trick, and I'll deny thee nothing but my Throne ; nay thou shalt not want an Interest or Share in that, where in it may serve thee.

P. Sir, It must be a shaft winged with their own Feathers, that must give the Fatal wound. You know your Parliament by their own Act draw towards an End : Great lawyers say, it is dissolved already ; however, as matters go, there can be expected but one Session more ; and therefore, as soon as you return, at their next Meeting, spare for no Cost, give what the lawless, and most extravagant Arians can desire, for you will never be at that Trouble or Charge to me again, and all shall be your own.

W. I would throw away a Brace or two of M. Pots, that I might get a General Excuse settled. But what if they should settle it but for five Years ?

P. Never fear that, we will make it everlasting, if we can once get it of any fashion. And perhaps it is not so difficult a thing to get, say you imagine. Some of them know, that they shall never be Chosen again, if another Parliament were call'd ; and these will play the last Game to their utmost Advantage. Some of them are so base and beggarly, that they would not stick to sell their Country for Twenty Guineas. Some are desperately in your Interest, and must comply with what you Resolve. Many are your Pensioners, and many accustomed to be greased ; and I scarce think there are any, who will be able to refuse Gold enough : but if any such there be, their Number is inconsiderable ; they will be laughed at by the rest, and may be undone first. You are not bound to make all ; The Major Part will do your Business.

W. And I will have it, if Money will do it.

B. When this is done, Parliaments will be needless to you, and hurtful to their Country ; so that there will be no danger in laying them aside. Then placing your Troops conveniently, by degrees make Foreigners the Gatherers of it, who will not spare the Natives, and best know how to scrue it to the Height ; and will make you a trusty Army, if occasion require. Then putting faithful Garrisons in Portsmouth, Hull, and Plymouth, and other places of Strength, you may privately invite Foreigners by way of Trade to pour in, till they over-power the Natives, and keep them under ; and if any Great, or Small, do but so much as grumble, behead, or hang them, and dispose of their Lands and Fortunes to your sure Dependents, till you have routed out their Nobility and Gentry ; and when you have brought things to this pass, you may have what you will, and do what you will.

W. A General Excuse, I think, would enable me for this. But what if I fail in the Project ?

P. I hope you will not ; but if the worst come to the worst, then you must watch the breaking of the Confederacy, and exchange all the Forces you can, or buy them, and find them over speedily hither, with promise of Estates ; Arms, all the Refugees and Strangers ; Secure the Ports in such way as we discoursed before, and then with the sword in your hand you may take, what they would not give ; and if any stir against you, it will be your Advantage to destroy them and their Families, and gratify your Followers with their Estates. And, all this you may do with a few Private Forces, which you may have when you please ; and if you need Recruits, there are not less than a Hundred thousand Foreigners in the Kingdom, who will be at your Devotion, and afford you a Select Squad upon all occasions. And who shall be able to stir or molest you, when you have

a *formed Army*, and *Secured all Advantages*!

W. I do not see, but this may take, if closely and resolutely followed,

B. Bur, Sir! There is one thing I had almost forgot; The *Fleet* with *Ruffel* in the *Mediterranean*. Though the *Confederacy* should hold, it cannot stay long there; and yet it must not come home, till you have effected your Designs; of which if you should fail (and then the Devil deceives me) it were well if the matter were so contrived, That that *Fleet* were given to the *Dutch*, which will eternally oblige them to you, and make them Superiour to both *English* and *French* by Sea; but I think that matter ought to be further Consulted with the old *Stanch Politick Cabal* at the *Lee*. In the mean time continue to carry away every thing that is good for any thing. It will be some revenge to have *Beggar'd* the *English*, if you cannot *Rule* them; and will procure you *Friends* abroad; and you will be ready furnished to set your *Tools* at work, and

wait the opportunity of another Turn here or elsewhere.

W. Well, My *Benting*! I am resolv'd. I fear neither *Scotch* nor *Irish*; so I can get the *Absolute Dominion* over the *English*; and if all the *Arts* of *Man*, or all the *Powers* of *Hell* can effect it, I will not fail of it; But if like *Phaeton* I must drop, it is some Satisfaction to have set the *World* on *Fire*; and as for this *Cursed England*, if I must bid *Adieu* to it, I will first so pill, strip, and ransack it, that I will not leave it worth *King James's* or any other *Man's* having. But come, My Faithful *Benting*, enough for this time; Let us now go and refresh our selves, and drink a *Cheerful Glass* to our good success in prosecuting the Designs we have now Consulted on.

B. I am always ready to attend Your Majesty.

Exit Tyrannus, &c.

FINIS.